

Together towards a common goal

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**Together towards a common goal – REVIVE, a community of antimicrobial
researchers, brought together by the Global Antibiotic R&D Partnership
(GARDP)**

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Abstract

The Global Antibiotic R&D Partnership (GARDP) has launched a project, REVIVE, to connect and support the antimicrobial R&D community. REVIVE's educational activities include a webinar series and sessions and presentations at key conferences. REVIVE also aims to connect antimicrobial researchers with each other, with current experts in the field and with laureate experts, and to develop a comprehensive repository of relevant resources for the R&D community.

Main text

The Global Antibiotic Research & Development Partnership (GARDP; gardp.org) is a not-for-profit research and development organization that addresses global public health needs by developing and delivering new or improved antibiotic treatments, while endeavouring to ensure their sustainable access. Initiated by the WHO and the Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative* (DNDi), GARDP is an important element of WHO's Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance that calls for new public-private partnerships to encourage research and development of new antimicrobial agents and diagnostics.

It has been often discussed that there is a 'discovery void' in the development of antibiotics; many companies have left the field and many researchers changed their field of work or retired. This is a loss to the community with valuable experience and knowledge at risk of being lost forever. Ironically, while today's technology can better connect researchers, working in a research field with a steady turn over and loss of life time experts has left researchers new to antimicrobial R&D isolated. With this in mind, GARDP created REVIVE to support and connect the antimicrobial R&D community, facilitate learning, and share knowledge, and in January 2018, launched the website REVIVE (revive.gardp.org).

REVIVE's aim is to improve, accelerate, and streamline antimicrobial drug discovery and R&D by connecting researchers directly with established and retired antimicrobial researchers and developers. To preserve their knowledge and to make it accessible to other researchers, REVIVE's expert group comprises those with a track record in antimicrobial discovery, R&D. REVIVE provides those in academia, start-up and biotech companies in the field with access to scientific advice from highly experienced drug developers. Those working on antimicrobials can engage with the REVIVE expert group via the website's 'Talk to an expert' interface (revive.gardp.org/talk-to-an-expert). Thus, REVIVE provides a forum for exchange between early career researchers, drug developers experienced in other disease areas now refocusing their research to address the antimicrobial resistance (AMR) crisis, clinical and non-clinical researchers. To date, 91 experts have committed to support REVIVE and this is continuously expanding. GARDP is happy to consider additional experts.

REVIVE has a strong educational focus. The REVIVE webinar series was launched in June 2018 and so far, four webinars have been held. In the first webinar, David Shlaes discussed traditional development pathways for antimicrobial drugs (revive.gardp.org/clinical-development-1). In the second, William Hope gave insights on pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of antimicrobials (revive.gardp.org/pk-pd-in-support-of-accelerated-programmes-for-antimicrobial-development). The third webinar was a panel discussion about the development of antibiotics targeting specific pathogens with Ian Friedland, Sumathi Nambiar, Mair Powell, and David Shlaes (<https://revive.gardp.org/clinical-development-2-specific-pathogens/>). In the last webinar of 2018, Claire Sadler answered audience questions following the viewing of her recorded presentation 'Making Safety a Part of Drug Design' from the ESCMID/ASM Conference on Drug Development to Meet the Challenge of Antimicrobial Resistance 2018 (<https://revive.gardp.org/making-safety-a-part-of-drug-design/>). All webinar presentations were followed by generous question and answer sessions where the speakers responded to audience questions. More webinars will follow in 2019 (revive.gardp.org/category/webinars).

63

64 In addition to these virtual events, GARDP is also co-organizing conference sessions with other
65 organisations, including BSAC and CARB-X, at conferences including ECCMID and ASM Microbe. As a
66 not-for-profit organization with a global scope, GARDP makes recordings of their conference
67 sessions available free of charge on REVIVE.

68

69 The latest addition to REVIVE has been the REVIVE Blog which aims to share knowledge and
70 stimulate discussions on topics relevant to AMR. The blog was launched in November 2018 with a
71 post by guest author Lord Jim O'Neill on economic models for antimicrobial drug development
72 (<https://revive.gardp.org/more-than-one-model-to-stimulate-antimicrobial-drug-development/>).

73

74 REVIVE also aims to provide a comprehensive repository of relevant resources for antimicrobial
75 researchers. The focus of these resources is freely available, open-access information. GARDP is
76 working with other organisations to identify resources and welcomes suggestions and requests for
77 resources.

78

79 In summary, REVIVE is a space for the antimicrobial R&D community to connect and exchange
80 information. It is GARDP's vision to grow REVIVE with the community, in collaboration with all
81 participants, from early-career researchers to seasoned experts so as to meet their needs.

82 Therefore, we ask readers to work with GARDP on REVIVE.

83

84

85 **Transparency Declarations**

86 None to declare.